received to upgrade Bagdogra airport as an International Airport. However, there is no proposal to declare Bagdora Airport as an International Airport at present.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has developed a new car park area and approach road. There is also a proposal to expand the apron to increase parking capacity of aircrafts.

Air services from Raipur

†2201. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) names of the metropolitan cities of the country for which facility of regular flight has been provided from the capital of Chhattisgarh, Raipur;

(b) the names of the cities for which regular flight has been provided during last three years;

(c) the names of the cities of the State other than the capital Raipur, which have been provided with air service facilities; and

(d) the details of the request made by State Government and the action taken thereon in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Names of the cities which have air connectivity by scheduled air services to/from the capital of Chhattisgarh (Raipur) are Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Nagpur and Vizag.

(b) During the last three years, Vizag and Chennai have been linked to Raipur with effect from 26th October, 2003 with four B737 services per week.

(c) No other city of the State has been connected with air services.

(d) The Government had received request from State Government to connect Raipur to Kolkata, Hyderabad and Bangalore with direct flight. However, the estimated existing traffic potential from Raipur to Kolkata, Hyderabad and Bangalore is not sufficient to support commercially viable opeations with the Jet type of aircraft available in Indian Airlines' fleet.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.